

WHAT I CLAIM IS:

1. A method for managing a predetermined set of email messages on a source email server from a remote email network, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) receiving an email message at the source email server, wherein said email message has a destination email address in a first field, a code in a second field and an instruction in a third field, wherein said destination email address corresponds to a subscriber account on the remote email network;

(b) checking a database to determine a permission for the destination email address; and

(c) performing the instruction on the set of email messages if the permission is granted.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of populating the database with subscriber email addresses corresponding to subscriber accounts authorized to remotely manage email messages.

3. The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of populating the database with a device type associated with each subscriber email address, and wherein step (b) further comprises the steps of checking the database for the device type corresponding to the destination email address, determining if the device type is compatible with the instruction, and modifying the instruction according to the device type.

4. The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of receiving a second email message at the source email server, wherein said second email message comprises a local subscriber's identification in a message sender field and wherein said second email message comprises at least one subscriber email address in a message body field.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the code comprises a predetermined data string and wherein the second field is a message subject field.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein the first field is a message sender field.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein the code comprises a predetermined data string and wherein the second field comprises a message addressee field.
8. The method of claim 7, wherein the predetermined string corresponds to an email account on the source server.
9. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of sending an information message to the destination email address if the permission is denied.
10. The method of claim 1, wherein the instruction is a retrieve command, and wherein in response to said instruction, step (c) comprises sending the predetermined set of email messages to the destination email address.
11. The method of claim 1, wherein the instruction comprises a command and a criteria, and wherein in response to said instruction, step (c) further comprises the steps of searching a mailbox associated with the subscriber account to select the predetermined set of email messages according to the criteria.
12. The method of claim 11, wherein the command is a retrieve command.
13. The method of claim 11, wherein the command is a delete command.
14. The method of claim 11, wherein the command comprises a retrieve command and a delete command.
15. The method of claim 11, wherein the criteria comprises a sender's name string.
16. The method of claim 11, wherein the criteria comprises a subject string.
17. The method of claim 11, wherein the criteria comprises a date string.

18. The method of claim 11, wherein the criteria comprises a boolean operation and a plurality of date strings.

19. The method of claim 11, wherein the criteria comprises a subject string and a sender's name string.

20. The method of claim 11, wherein the criteria comprises a recipient name string.

21. The method of claim 1, wherein the third field comprises a message body field.

22. The method of claim 1, wherein the instruction comprises a null string and wherein step (c) comprises performing a default action on the predetermined set of email messages.

23. A method for managing a predetermined set of email messages on a source email server from a remote email network, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) populating a database with subscriber email addresses corresponding to subscriber accounts authorized to remotely manage email messages;

(b) receiving an email message at the source email server, wherein said email message has a destination email address in a first field, a code in a second field and an instruction in a third field, wherein said destination email address corresponds to a subscriber account on the remote email network;

(c) checking the database to determine a permission for the destination email address; and

(d) performing the instruction on the set of email messages if the permission is granted.

24. The method of claim 23, further comprising the step of sending an information message to the destination email address if the permission is denied.

25. The method of claim 23, further comprising the step of populating the database with a

device type associated with each subscriber email address, and wherein step (c) further comprises the steps of checking the database for a device type corresponding to the destination email address, determining if the device type is compatible with the instruction, and modifying the instruction according to the device type.

26. The method of claim 23, wherein step (a) further comprises receiving a second email message at the source email server, wherein said second email message comprises a local subscriber's identification in a message sender field and at least one subscriber email address in a message body field and wherein the database is populated with said at least one subscriber email address and said local subscriber's identification.

27. The method of claim 23, wherein the instruction is a retrieve command, and wherein in response to said instruction, step (d) comprises sending the set of email messages to the destination email address.

28. The method of claim 23, wherein the instruction comprises a command and a search criteria, and wherein in response to said instruction, step (d) further comprises the steps of searching a mailbox associated with the subscriber account to select the predetermined set of email messages according to the search criteria.

29. The method of claim 28, wherein the command is a retrieve command.

30. The method of claim 28, wherein the command is a delete command.

31. The method of claim 28, wherein the command comprises a retrieve command and a delete command.

32. The method of claim 28, wherein the search criteria comprises a sender's name string.

33. The method of claim 28, wherein the search criteria comprises a subject string.

34. The method of claim 28, wherein the search criteria comprises a date string.

35. The method of claim 28, wherein the search criteria comprises a boolean operation and a plurality of date strings.

36. The method of claim 28, wherein the search criteria comprises a subject string and a sender's name string.

37. The method of claim 28, wherein the search criteria comprises a recipient name string.

38. A method for remotely retrieving a first email message from a source email server to a destination email address having a standard email client application, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) populating a database with subscriber email addresses corresponding to subscriber accounts authorized to remotely retrieve email messages;

(b) receiving a second email message on the source server, wherein said second email message has the destination address in a message sender field and a code in a predetermined field;

(c) checking the database to verify the destination email address as an authorized account; and

(d) sending, in response to the code, the first email message from the source email server to the destination email address.

39. The method of claim 38, wherein the predetermined field is a message subject field.

40. The method of claim 38, wherein the predetermined field is a message addressee field.

41. The method of claim 38, wherein the second email message further comprises an instruction in a second predetermined field, and wherein said method further comprises the step of processing said instruction to manipulate the first email message according to the instruction.

42. The method of claim 41, wherein the second predetermined field is a message body field.

43. The method of claim 38, further comprising the step of deleting the first email message from the source email server after the step of sending the first email.

44. A method for remotely managing a first email message on a source email server from an email account on a remote email server, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) receiving a second email message on the source server, wherein said second email message has a code in a first predetermined field;

(b) checking a database for a subscriber account corresponding to a message sender field in the second email message; and

(c) processing the first email message according to an instruction in a second predetermined field.

45. The method of claim 44, wherein the first predetermined field is a message subject field.

46. The method of claim 44, wherein the second predetermined field is a message body field.

47. The message of claim 44, wherein the instruction comprises a command and a criteria, and wherein in response to said instruction, step (c) further comprises the steps of searching a mailbox associated with the subscriber account to select the first email message according to the criteria and executing said command on the first email message.

48. The method of claim 44 further comprising the step of populating the database with a plurality of subscriber accounts and associated subscriber email addresses.

49. A system for managing a predetermined set of email messages on a source email server from a remote email network, said system comprising:

(a) a registration database on the source server, said registration database comprising a local subscriber account on said source server and an associated destination email address on the remote email network;

(b) a first module on the source email server, wherein when a first email message having a code in a first field, an instruction in a second field of the first email message and a sender email address in a sender field is received on the source email server, said first module determines if the sender email address is in the database; and

(c) a second module on the source server, wherein if the sender email address is in the database, the second module performs the instruction on the set of email messages.